

WHAT'S *New* in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers
in the District of Columbia*

Friday, November 11, 2005

NOVEMBER OFFICERS OF THE MONTH ARE HONORED

Earlier this year, Officers Mikal Ba'th and Ronald Burgeson were working the Sixth District Crime Initiative during the first watch, when they responded to a radio run for a loud noise in the 4800 block of Alabama Avenue, SE. Upon arrival on the scene, the officers observed a male subject standing in a walkway. He appeared to be taking something from his front left pocket, so the officers began to approach him for questioning. As they drew near, the subject pushed his hand back into his pocket and began to flee, with the officers in pursuit. As the suspect stopped running, he turned toward Officer Burgeson with his arms extended and caused Officer Burgeson to lose control of his motor scooter and fall to the ground. Officer Burgeson got up quickly, and he and Officer Ba'th placed the suspect under arrest for Assault on a Police Officer. They proceeded to handcuff the suspect, pat him down for weapons, and walk him to the street to wait for a transport vehicle. As they were escorting the suspect to the street, he was able to free one of his hands, push Officer Burgeson aside, and run from the scene. Officers Burgeson and Ba'th again chased the suspect for approximately two more blocks. After apprehending him the second time, the officers observed the loose handcuff and discovered that it had been unlocked with a key that the suspect had hidden in the rear inseam of his pants. A search incident to the arrest revealed 46 grams of cocaine and \$788. It was later discovered that the suspect was wanted on an outstanding homicide warrant from Prince George's County. Officers Ba'th and Burgeson were among 12 MPDC members who were recognized as "officers of the month" during this month's CHAMPS awards lunch.

① Read about all of their outstanding efforts at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,558568,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The September awards luncheon was hosted by the Savoy Suites Hotel in Northwest.

① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|.asp

THE MPDC WARNS SENIORS AND OTHERS ABOUT SOME COMMON SCAMS

When a scam or fraud occurs in DC, it is often the MPDC's Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit that is responsible for investigating the crime. These types of crimes go by many names: thefts by trick or deception, flim-flams, scams, con games or confidence schemes. But regardless of what they are called, the crimes can be devastating to their unsuspecting victims. As part of our efforts to keep the public aware – and therefore, prepared to avoid being victimized – the Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit has developed a list of some scams commonly committed in DC. These include the Lottery Scam, the Relative in Distress Scam, the Three-Card Monte and the Badge Player Scam. Although anyone can become a victim of a scam, senior citizens can be particularly vulnerable. The best way to avoid becoming the victim of a flim-flam, scam or other fraud is to be informed and be on your guard at all times. Protect yourself and your financial welfare by exercising good judgment and being skeptical when presented with deals that seem fishy or just too good to be true.

① Afor detailed information on these and other scams, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,558533,mpdcNav_GID,1548.asp

① If you think you have been the victim of a con game, or if a con artist has approached you, call the police right away. Con artists are usually very good at what they do, and the only way to stop them is by arresting and prosecuting them.

① To reach the MPDC's Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit, call (202) 727-4159.

CHIEF UPDATES JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON MPDC PERFORMANCE

Appearing this week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey reported on continuing improvements in public safety and Department efficiency and performance. The Chief pointed out that reports of serious crime in DC plummeted 18 percent during 2004; there were fewer crimes reported last year than in any year since the current reporting system began in 1965. The downward trend has continued through the first 10 months of 2005: overall crime is down 8 percent so far this year, with every crime category except robbery showing a continued decrease. Noting that crime reductions are occurring in all seven police districts, the Chief said "this suggests that both our citywide crime reduction strategies as well as our localized community policing efforts are having an impact in neighborhoods throughout the city." Ramsey attributed the positive trends to the hard work of MPDC members in areas such as arrest activity and firearm recoveries. MPDC officers have already seized more than 2,000 firearms this year, a 17 percent increase from 2004. Ramsey also reported on recent "benchmarking" analyses, in which the MPDC's performance is being measured against that of seven comparable cities. The comparisons – in areas such as violent and property crime, homicide clearance rates and use of force by officers – show that DC is generally surpassing the performance of the benchmark cities. "When it comes to public safety, we are doing some things very well here in DC, and we have the results to show for our efforts. All of us – our elected leaders, our police officers and the communities we serve – can be proud of what we have accomplished, working together," Ramsey said.

CRIME SOLVERS CELEBRATES 24 YEARS IN DC

Crime Solvers of Washington, DC, celebrated its 24th year this past week with its annual breakfast, held at the Washington Navy Yard. Participants included the partners who make Crime Solvers successful: police and prosecutors, business and community volunteers, and members of the news media. Started as Crime Stoppers in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1976, Crime Solvers came to DC in 1981. The program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest and indictment in felony crimes. Tips, which can be anonymous, are made over the program's toll-free telephone number: (800) 673-2777. Over the past 14 years, Crime Solvers has given out about \$60,000 in rewards. It is also credited with leading to more than 1,000 felony arrests, and the seizure of \$15 million worth of illegal drugs and \$5 million in ill-gotten cash. During his featured remarks at the breakfast, US Attorney Kenneth Wainstein succinctly proclaimed, "Crime Solvers works."

NEWS & NOTES

Citizen Summit IV. Mayor Williams reminds all DC residents that Citizen Summit IV will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2005, at the Washington Convention Center. The day-long summit (8:30 am – 4 pm) gives residents an opportunity to help shape the policies and budget of the District government in a number of areas that impact community safety, including youth development, employment, economic opportunity and affordable housing. For more information, call (202) 727-2823 or go online at <http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov>.

Civilian Job Vacancies. The MPDC continues to seek applicants for a variety of full- and part-time positions for civilian employees in the agency. For details on current vacancies, including information on how to apply for these positions, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>.

Court Reports Available. Each month, the Community Prosecution staff of the US Attorney's Office publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases in each police district that were prosecuted during the previous month. These Court Reports discuss crimes that occurred in DC neighborhoods and provide updates on the criminal convictions of those who commit these crimes. Access the reports for September, August and July at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html.

- ① Read the Chief's complete statement at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,558582,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp
- ① For the latest statistics on reported crime, arrests and firearm recoveries, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|.asp
- ① For more information on this long-standing reward program, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,544778,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp
- ① In addition to supporting Crime Solvers, the MPDC also offers more substantial rewards in more serious crimes: up to \$25,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any unsolved homicide, and up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in an unsolved robbery (up to \$10,000 if the victim was seriously injured). Tips can be phoned in to (202) 727-9099.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 11/10/05
◆ 2005: 164	
◆ 2004: 175	
◆ % Change: -6.3%	
◆ Closure Rate: 54.9% (90 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 11/5/05
◆ Total: 774	
◆ Drugs: 150	
◆ Weapons: 33	
◆ Robbery: 26	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 10/29/05
◆ Arrests: 67	
◆ Curfew Violations: 42	
◆ Truants: 78	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 11/9/05
◆ November: 56	
◆ 2005 Total: 2,045	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 11/10/05
◆ 2005: 41	
◆ 2004: 41	
◆ % Change: Unchanged	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov